

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PINT, MY

SUBJECT: RAZALEIGH AND THE PETROLEUM NEGOTIATIONS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4781.

1. ALEX LEE'S COMMENTS (REFTEL) AND YOUR OWN EXCELLENT ANALYSES HAVE HIGHLIGHTED CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN EXXON/PETRONA NEGOTIATIONS AND DOMESTIC POLITICS, ESPECIALLY RAZALEIGH'S POLITICAL AMBITIONS. CONSIDERING DELICACY OF SITUATION, OUR IMPRESSION HAS BEEN THAT USG REPRESENTATION WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH HELP AT THIS TIME, AND COULD WELL PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. EXXON HAS NOT ASKED US TO TAKE ANY ACTION SO FAR, ALTHOUGH EXXON OFFICIALS ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE USG ROLE. YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT USG REPRESENTATION, EVEN IF IT WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE HELPFUL UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, COULD BE WELL SIGNIFICANT AT SOME STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROACH GOM IN THIS ISSUE WHENEVER YOU THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. ROBINSON

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